

REMARKS

In the Official action, the examiner rejected all original claims 1-20. In response, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 11, cancelled dependent claims 6, 14, and 15, and amended dependent claims 3, 4, 5, 9 and 16. Claim 1 now incorporates some aspects of original claim 3, whereas claim 11 now incorporates some of aspects of claims 14 and 15. Amendments to claims 3, 4, 5, 9, and 16 are of a formal nature, to reflect the amendments to the independent claims and the cancellation of other claims. The Abstract has also been amended to delete reference to Fig. 3

The subject application claims priority from an Austrian application under 35 USC §119(b). Such claim has been properly made. The examiner has evidently objected to the priority for the reason that the priority document "has even pages only". Applicant submitted a certified copy of the priority document and it is highly unlikely that such certified copy omitted the odd numbered pages. Applicant suspects that the certified copy may have been incompletely scanned within the USPTO for electronic access by the examiner. If the ribbon original of the certified copy only contains even numbered pages, applicant requests the return thereof to the undersigned so that a credit and correct replacement can be obtained from the Austrian Patent Office.

The examiner evidently requires that the specification contain a cross-reference to related applications. Inasmuch as there is no related U.S. application, and a claim to priority under 35 USC §119(b) is not required to be contained in the specification under a cross reference to related application, applicant request reconsideration and withdrawal of the apparent objection.

As noted above, the objection to the Abstract has been overcome with the substitute page enclosed herewith.

Although all 20 original claims were rejected under 35 USC §102 or §103, the independent claims 1 and 11 as currently amended incorporate claims (such as 6 and

15) that were rejected only under 35 USC §103. Accordingly the following arguments for patentability need only address the obviousness type rejection based on the disclosures of the patent to Fleissner in view of the patent to Luthi.

Claim 1 recites in pertinent part, that adjacent each of said ends of the cylinder the longitudinal ribs are welded to an axially outermost radial bearing ring without connection to the cylinder, and without connection of the outermost radial bearing ring to the cylinder.

Claim 11 recites in pertinent part, a plurality of axially extending longitudinal ribs that are rigidly connected to the radial bearing rings, thereby forming a multiplicity of pockets around the perforated cylinder, and the bearing rings closest to the axial ends of the cylinder are rigidly connected to the longitudinal ribs but not rigidly connected to the cylinder.

In Fleissner, there is no radial bearing rings but only metal strips (or profiles 10) which extend axially parallel to each other. This can also be seen by the curved drum body 5 shown in the figures. Furthermore, no hint is given on the use of welding the strips; to the contrary the metal strips are bolted together. Luthi shows a cylinder where planar strip metal is helically wound around the cylinder. Therefore there are no radial bearing rings and also no longitudinal ribs extending in axial direction of the cylinder. In this shown design cracks will occur at the edge of the annular plate 34 due to thermal stress during heating or cooling.

This kind of thermal stress is avoided by the special design of the subject invention, where the outermost radial bearing ring is not connected to the cylinder. As neither cited reference shows radial bearing rings or the formation of pockets with axial ribs they have little in common with each other or applicant's invention.

More particularly, Fleissner shows only longitudinal ribs, without any radial or even spiral ribs. Luthi shows only spiral wound wavy strip metal (16, 26), without longitudinal or radial ribs. (See column 2 line 66 and column 3 line 33). There is no nexus to combine the disclosures, and even if combined, there is no resulting combination that would point towards applicant's claims. Furthermore, the claims

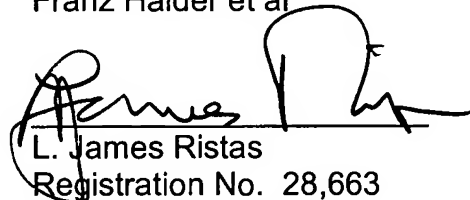
specify a particular relationship between the radial ribs and the cylinder at the ends of the cylinder, which is not taught or suggested by either reference. This special relationship is not merely an arbitrary design choice, but is a clever and effective way of solving a significant problem of the stresses caused by temperature variations between the central and end portions of the shell that sometimes occur during dryer use. (See page 2 line 20, and the discussion starting on page 6 line 1 associated with Figure 5b).

The prior art does not even incidentally show or point to the combination of features claimed by applicant, and there is no suggestion in the cited references that any modification of the connection of the ribs to the cylinder at the axial ends of the cylinder can solve the problem solved by applicant with the claims now presented for reconsideration.

Accordingly, applicant believes that all claims as amended should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. James Ristas", is written over a horizontal line.

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